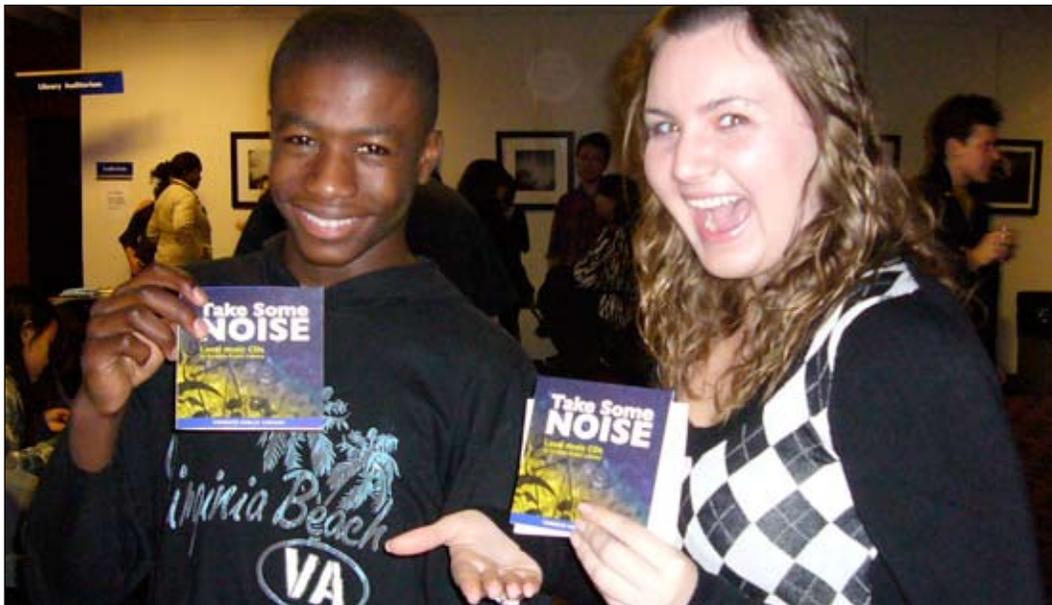


Shelf life

Toronto Public Library News & Views

December 2008



Editorial Youth Advisory Group volunteers Ksenia and Jared show off a list of the library's local music CDs at the Make Some Noise concert on November 15. "Did you know the Toronto libraries feature local talent and support the local independent scene? Thanks for moving with the time libraries! It's so encouraging to see established institutions embrace the time, and support the art and culture that might inspire the next generation!" – Masia One, one of the performers at the Make Some Noise concert.

that are about Toronto, shine the light on the city, and make us more aware of who we are." – a One Book 2008 program participant.



Magician Stephan Elvay

Toronto Public Library 2008 In the words of our customers

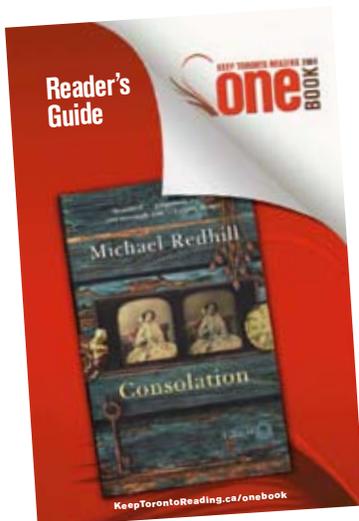
January

According to 2007 statistics, Toronto Public Library continues to be the most used library system in the world.

"Combine architectural excellence with community input and, even in the toughest times, you can't keep a world-class public library system down."
– Bruce Demara, Entertainment Reporter, in the Toronto Star, January 17, 2008

"If I'm not mistaken, TPL is... North America's largest public

library system. There are more libraries than McDonald's locations in this city..."
–comment posted January 1, 2008 at blogto.com



February

The library launches its new One Book initiative as part of Keep Toronto Reading 2008, the library's celebration of the book in all its forms. The inaugural One Book community read encouraged all Torontonians to read *Consolation* by Michael Redhill and then participate in discussions and events throughout the city about the book's themes and issues.

"[*Consolation* is a] great choice of book! [I like the] variety of programming, the fact the activities are available across the city, the chance to meet the author, and the great advertising for the program. Please keep the focus on books, like *Consolation*,

March

March Break draws thousands of kids to programs featuring magicians, musicians, puppeteers and much more.

"Dear Librarian, I have been here for the March Break. It was FUN. If I didn't have a computer I would use Computer 509 and go on KidsSpace for free. I wouldn't have to use my library card or anything. I will be here tomorrow of course. Me and my brother thank the library! p.s. I LOVE THE LIBRARY. I thought it was going to be boaring [sic] because I thought I could only read. But for the past days. IT HAS BEEN FUN!!!!"
– comment from a young library fan sent to KidsSpace, the library's website for children

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April

The spring 2008 version of the library's Canada Council Heritage Series, *Foresight*, features visits by Canadian authors of speculative fiction.

"I'm happy to have an opportunity to give back in a small way to further enrich the role of the library. Opportunities such as these also continue to

demonstrate that the library is more than a repository but also an active and responsive forum for the entire community."
 – Toronto author Paul Hong, who was part of the library's Foresight author series

May

S. Walter Stewart reopens after extensive renovations.

"The new facility is stunning. Visitors gather under the elevated ceiling to gaze up at the light flooding through the skylights. Curved shelving plays with the rounded architecture of the original building. My daughters were drawn to the Teen Zone, with funky chairs, computers, and an appealing collection of books. My husband disappeared to pursue the CD collection. In the KidsStop, children played with the hands-on learning stations. There's even a little café area and a magnificent

glassed auditorium."
 – author Karen Crossing, thrilled to see her local branch reopen

Toronto Public Library's first KidsStop interactive literacy play centre opens at S. Walter Stewart Branch.

"From the light-up entrance to the silver rocket ship to the wall of spinning blocks, this is so not the library you grew up with... The Toronto Public Library today opens the first of several planned KidsStops – an indoor literacy playground –

September

The library celebrates 30 years of adult literacy support in the community.

"I had the desire to teach and I knew that it would only take one learner to have this same desire to learn. Life is too short to waste. I decided I wanted to do something that I knew someone would appreciate. I wanted to make a difference in someone's life."
 – Library Adult Literacy tutor Carole Hodgins talking about why she volunteers to help adults learn to read



S. Walter Stewart Branch



S. Walter Stewart KidsStop

located in the S. Walter Stewart branch in East York... The idea is not to drill literacy skills into youngsters or push them to read, but to spark a love of reading and get them off to a good start, as literacy affects everything from health to emotional well-being later in life."
 – Kristin Rushowy, Education Reporter, *Toronto Star*, May 29, 2008

June

The library holds its first Grey Matters Series for older adults during Seniors Month in June.

"[The program was] not long enough: I could have listened to the speaker for hours (this is not a complaint).
 – Participant in Grey Matters program

October

The 2008 edition of *Young Voices*, the library's annual magazine of teen writing and art, selected by teen editorial teams, launches on October 16; two days later the annual Young Voices Writers Conference draws a capacity crowd, with about 140 participants.

"Being a part of the Editorial Youth Advisory Group has been one of the most mature things I have ever done. To feel like I have the power to contribute to such a great force, something so universal and powerful – literature. To be able to influence the way people see the library, help aspiring writers reach their potential and to have a say in the publishing of young writers is an incredible feeling. I am very lucky to work



and Jose Orozco... Revealing the hidden murals is just part of a stupendous rethink here, which I'll summarize as "In with the old, in with the new." It rebuilds my faith in municipal government."
 – Peter Kuitenbrouwer in the *National Post*, October 28, 2008

"We love the new library – great look – love the hallway with the stars and Emma likes playing weather girl with the puppet area, my other daughter Jannel likes sitting by herself in the big 'Queen's Chair!'"
 – Dufferin/St. Clair customer Beverly

Poet Glen Downie celebrates winning the Toronto Book Award at the award gala held at Toronto Reference Library on October 17.

"I've supported the Toronto Public Library with a regular donation for years now. Nothing much – the poet's equivalent of a "widow's mite" – but it's a gesture acknowledging what a valuable resource it is to me, and how important it is that we maintain a literary culture freely accessible to everyone."
 – 2008 Toronto Book Award winner Glen Downie

November

Indie bands Slim Twig, Masia One, Winter Gloves and Gentleman Reg play North York Central Library auditorium in a

"Make Some Noise" concert to promote the library's thriving local music CD collection.

"When I learned I was going to be interviewing Winter Gloves, I was hit by mixed waves of sublime excitement and genuine intimidation."
 – Youth Advisory Group library volunteer Carmel

– an online customer commenting on upgrades to the library's catalogue

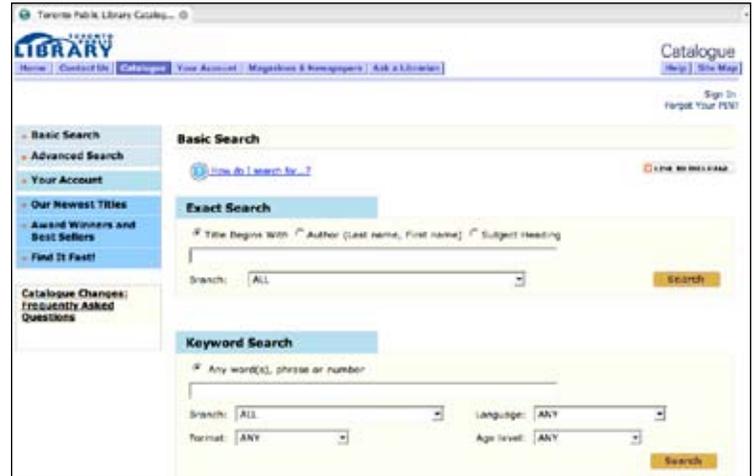
December

The library's new Strategic Plan, *Our Shared Stories: Writing the Future of Toronto's Library*, charts our path ahead.
torontopubliclibrary.ca/strategicplan

with so many other talented people and to be able to give a positive name to the often stereotyped youth of today. I feel honoured to even be involved in such a fantastic program."
 –Editorial Youth Advisory Group member Ksenia

Dufferin/St. Clair Branch re-opens after extensive renovations, featuring: restored murals that were created in the 1920s and '30s by George Reid and Doris McCarthy, but painted over in the 1960s; the library's second KidsStop interactive literacy centre for children; and free wireless internet.

"Today the library unlocked its doors after a 16-month, \$2.54-million restoration and let locals see the murals once more... These are breathtaking works. They are Toronto's answer to the great murals of Mexico City, by Diego Rivera



Responding to feedback from online catalogue users, the library implements changes to the online catalogue to make it more user-friendly.

"I would have no problem using this new version of the library catalogue – I also think a congratulations is in order – your willingness to help, to reach out to the community and your willingness to continually improve and learn are outstanding."

"Thank you for your time and effort. It is remarkable that you came to us and took the time to listen to our comments. This gesture sends a very strong message to our participants and to their families. We are all energized by our library discussion."
 – Pegasus Community Project Focus Group with participants with developmental disabilities and staff



Dufferin/St. Clair Branch



Toronto Public Library Strategic Plan | 2008 – 2011

OUR VISION: Toronto Public Library inspires the spirit of exploration, the joy of reading, and the pursuit of knowledge for people of all ages and backgrounds. As cornerstones of their neighbourhoods, our libraries connect people to each other, to their community, and to their hopes and dreams. Our rich resources provide the opportunity for everyone to treasure the past and to create a future that is full of possibility. The Library promotes and enriches the democratic, cultural, educational and economic life of our diverse and evolving City.

FOCUS: Engaging Toronto's Diverse Communities:

Toronto Public Library celebrates and supports diversity, and strives to reflect our shared values in everything we do.

"Everything about Toronto Library is important to me. The library was a major part of growing up in my family and I am continuing that tradition with my own two children...."
– Library user at in-branch consultation

FOCUS: Addressing the Growing Income Gap:

Toronto Public Library addresses the growing income gap between rich and poor by ensuring that all residents, regardless of age or income, have support in

developing the literacy skills they need, and access to the information and knowledge they require.

"Continue with this program so that others like myself can keep on learning and improving and get a better job at the end."
– Participant in the Library's Adult Literacy Program

FOCUS: Expanding Access to Technology and Online Services:

Toronto Public Library plays an important role in ensuring that all Toronto residents have access to up-to-date technology, the Internet and digital resources so critical to full participation in social, economic and community life.

"The ability to put holds on books online, and the ability to know when they are ready, or books are overdue, online is amazing!!!"
– Arts consultation participant

FOCUS: Supporting Creativity and Culture:

Through our resources, programs, partnerships and spaces, the Library, as a catalyst for culture and creative expression, contributes to the vibrancy and livability of the city and its neighbourhoods.

I use TPL daily and the system is great and getting better all the time. The fact that you're surveying your users is even better! Thank you for doing that!
– Arts consultation participant

FOCUS: Supporting a Sustainable Library:

Environmental sustainability is part of ensuring that the Toronto Public Library is a responsible corporate citizen. Sustainability also includes our responsibility to advocate for the essential role public libraries have in our communities.

"The Public Library is the greatest asset we have, so much for free, there is nothing else like it."
– Kennedy/Eglinton Expansion focus group

For more on the Strategic Plan, please visit torontopubliclibrary.ca/strategicplan



Library Board Highlights December 15, 2008

New procedural by-law to enhance quality of library governance

The Board approved a new procedural by-law governing their meetings in order to continue to support high quality public administration, transparent governance practices and informed decision-making by the Library Board.

Capital budget and plan adopted

The Board adopted the 2009 Capital Budget and 2010 – 2013 Plan, as approved by Council

on December 10, comprising: a 2009 Capital Budget of \$21.155 million gross (\$11.950 million debt) and carry-forward from 2008 of \$0.827 million gross (\$0 debt); and the 2010 – 2013 Plan totalling \$96.449 million gross (\$50.850 million debt).

Interim budget adopted

The Board adopted the 2009 interim operating budget of \$68.042 million gross and \$62.316 million net, as approved by City Council enabling the Library to carry out normal operations during 2009, until Council approves the 2009

Operating Budget, expected to take place during a special Council meeting scheduled for March 31 and April 1, 2009.

Former library staff member Peter Bassnett honoured

The Board approved a motion to name a room at Goldhawk Park Branch after former Scarborough Public Library CEO Peter Bassnett, and to name an award for Bassnett, provided funding can be secured. Bassnett was a forward-thinking advocate for effective public library service in Ontario, championing

cooperation between Ontario libraries. He was CEO in Scarborough from 1975-1995, overseeing the opening of seven new branches, and the provision of multilingual services in 28 languages for the people of Scarborough.

Summer Reading Club sponsorship renewed

The Board approved the renewal of the TD Bank Financial Group sponsorship of the popular TD Summer Reading Club for 2009 - 2011 and the renewal of the naming of the reading club as the TD Summer Reading Club.